



## Forest Service

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache

National Forests

857 West South Jordan Parkway

South Jordan, Utah 84095-8594

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# News Release

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## **BURNOUT OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR MINERAL FORK FIRE AREA IN BIG COTTONWOOD**

Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah, August 20, 2016 – The Mineral Fork fire in Big Cottonwood Canyon was started on Saturday, August 6, 2016 by lightning. This naturally caused fire is being managed by the U.S. Forest Service and is burning on National Forest System lands. Management officials with the Forest Service are managing this fire using strategies that take advantage of fire's beneficial elements to achieve Forest goals.

Fire plays a beneficial role in maintaining the ecological stability of many landscapes, such as the watersheds within Salt Lake County. The Forest Service is constantly working with partners to restore healthy, resilient, and fire-adapted ecosystems. The Mineral Fork Fire has presented an opportunity to manage and allow wildfire to perform its natural role in controlling fuel build-up and rejuvenating vegetation.

On Monday, August 22, 2016 and Tuesday, August 23, 2016, the Forest Service will conduct burnout operations on the ground with aerial support within the Mineral Fork area of Big Cottonwood Canyon, UT to help achieve its objectives to:

- Provide for the safety of firefighters and the public
- Manage the fire to minimize both fire intensity and impact to the Big Cottonwood Canyon watershed
- Use fire as an important tool to improve forest health
- Reduce hazardous fuel loading
- Enhance wildlife habitat

With these burnout operations set to take place, the public can expect to see a significant amount of smoke in the valley from I-15, I-215, and neighboring canyons. The public is asked not to call 911 to report the fire in Big Cottonwood Canyon.



Immediately on Monday, August 22, 2016, at 12:01a.m., the Mill B South Fork Trail, Broads Fork Trail, and surrounding areas in Big Cottonwood Canyon will be **CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC**. The area will be closed to all recreational uses including hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, etc. until 12:01a.m. Wednesday August 24, 2016. The area is being closed while the Forest Service conducts these burnout operations for both the safety of firefighting officials and the recreating public.

The Mineral Fork Trail remains **CLOSED** and will remain closed until firefighting operations are complete for both firefighter and public safety at a later date. The trail is closed to all uses to include pedestrian and motorized use. Hikers and hunters in the Mill B drainage area are reminded to stay away from the fire area. Copies of the closure orders will be posted at the impacted trailheads and other pertinent locations throughout the canyon. A copy of the order is also available at the Salt Lake Ranger District Office located at 6944 S. 3000 E. Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121.

The Forest Service continues to partner with the Unified Fire Authority, The Nature Conservancy, and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State lands in the management of the Mineral Fork Fire.

*For more information about the Salt Lake Ranger District, please  
visit: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/uwcnf/about-forest/districts/?cid=fsem\\_035528](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/uwcnf/about-forest/districts/?cid=fsem_035528)*

**\*\*Please exercise caution along Big Cottonwood Canyon Road for firefighter and public safety\*\***

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Forest Service

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
857 WEST SOUTH JORDAN PARKWAY  
SOUTH JORDAN, UTAH 84095**

**SPECIAL ORDER OF FOREST SUPERVISOR  
UINTA-WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST  
SALT LAKE RANGER DISTRICT**

**TEMPORARY TRAIL AND AREA CLOSURE**

**PROHIBITION:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(a) and 36 CFR 261.50(b), **the following acts are prohibited** on the National Forest System trails and area described in this order. The trails and areas affected are located within the Salt Lake Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. This order is in effect starting Monday, August 22, 2016 at 12:01a.m. until Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 12:01a.m.

1. **Being in or upon the trail and/or area** as described below and shown on attached map.  
[36 CFR 261.55(a)] [36 CFR 261.53(e) ]

**EXEMPTIONS:**

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically exempting them from the effect of this order.
2. Any Federal, state or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
3. Federal or State administrative personnel in performance of an official duty.

**AREA DESCRIPTION:**

The Broads Fork Trail (Forest Service trail #150) the entire trail starting from Big Cottonwood Canyon, Utah State Route 190 going south to the end of the trail located in Township 2 South, Range 2 East, Sections 21, PB53, 28 and 27 all located within the Salt Lake Base Meridian as shown on the attached map.

Area closure including the entire Mill B South Trail (Forest Service trail #151) and surrounding areas located in Township 2 South, Range 2 East, Sections 22, 23, PB 54, PB 56, 27, and 26 all located within the Salt Lake Base Meridian as shown on the attached map.

**PURPOSE:**

Purpose of the closure is to provide for public health and safety during fire burnout operations on the Mineral Fork fire.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. Attached map shows the area affected by this Order.
3. Violation of the above prohibition(s) is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization and/or imprisonment for not more than 6 months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b) (6), Title 18 USC 3581(b) (7)].
4. Further information regarding this Order may be obtained at the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisors Office, (801) 236-3400.
5. This Order supersedes any previous Order(s) prohibiting the same, or similar acts prohibited by this Order in the area covered by this Order.

Done at Salt Lake City, Utah this 20th day of August, 2016.



/s/ Chad Hudson

Chad Hudson  
Deputy Forest Supervisor

Order Number: 04-19-312

# 04-19-310 Temporary Closure

- Trail Closure
- Area Closure

